

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-sealing component assembly, comprising:
a first component that is rotatable around a rotational axis;
a second component arranged adjacent said first component such that a micro clearance is defined between clearance-defining surfaces of said first and second components, said first component being rotatable relative to said second component via a bearing that has an inner race and an outer race and is disposed adjoining at least one of said first and second components in a direction of the rotational axis, said micro clearance being smaller than a gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing;

sealing means for preventing water from invading the gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing solely by water repellency of having said micro clearance and a water-repelling film layer provided on at least said clearance-defining surface of said first component, said sealing means having said micro clearance and ~~such that invasion of water into said micro clearance and said bearing is prevented solely due to water repellency of said~~ water-repelling film layer.

2. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, further comprising

a ground-layer film provided in between said water-repelling film and said clearance-defining surface of one of said first and second components on which said water-repelling film layer is provided.

3. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein

said water-repelling film layer is a thin metallic film impregnated with a fluorinated resin.

4. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein

said clearance-defining surface on which said water-repelling film layer is formed is on at least one of mutually opposing surfaces of said first and second components.

5. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein

said clearance-defining surface on which said water-repelling film layer is formed is on a surface that is contiguous with at least one of mutually opposing surfaces of said first and second components.

6. (Currently Amended) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein

~~said bearing has an inner race and an outer race;~~

said first component has a pressing member that is adjointingly attached to said outer race of said bearing, and

said second component has a rod member that is attached to said inner race of said bearing.

7. (Currently Amended) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein:

~~said bearing has an inner race and an outer race;~~

a rod member is attached to said inner race of said bearing,

said first component has a pressing member that is adjointingly attached to said outer race of said bearing, and

said second component has a cylindrical member that is fitted to said rod member.

8. (Currently Amended) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein

~~said bearing has an inner race and an outer race;~~

said first component has a plate-shaped member that is attached to said outer race of said bearing, and

said second component has a pressing member that is adjoiningly attached to said inner race of said bearing.

9. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 1, wherein
said water-repelling film layer is provided on both of said clearance-defining surfaces of said first and said second components.

10. (Original) The water-sealing component assembly set forth in claim 7, wherein
said cylindrical member has a projecting portion, which has a lip portion that tapers out.

11. (Previously Presented) The water-sealing component assembly, comprising:
a first component;
a second component arranged adjacent said first component such that a clearance is defined between clearance-defining surfaces of said first and second components, said first component being rotatable relative to said second component;
a water-repelling film layer provided on at least one of said clearance-defining surfaces of said first and said second components that define said clearance;
a bearing having an inner race and an outer race; and
a rod member attached to said inner race of said bearing,
said first component having a pressing member that is attached to said outer race of said bearing,
said second component having a cylindrical member that is fitted to said rod member, said cylindrical member having a plurality of projecting portions.

12. (Currently Amended) A fishing reel attachable to a fishing rod, said fishing reel comprising:
a reel body to be attached to the fishing rod;
a first component that is rotatable around a rotational axis;

a second component unrotatable relative to said reel body, said second component being arranged adjacent said first component such that a micro clearance is defined clearance-defining surfaces of said first and second components, said first component being rotatable relative to said second component via a bearing that has an inner race and an outer race and is disposed adjoining at least one of said first and second components in a direction of the rotational axis, said micro clearance being smaller than a gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing; and

sealing means for preventing water from invading the gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing solely by water repellency of ~~having said micro clearance and~~ a water-repelling film layer provided on at least said clearance-defining surface of said first component, said sealing means having said micro clearance and ~~such that invasion of water into said micro clearance and said bearing is prevented solely due to water repellency of said water-repelling film layer.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The fishing reel set forth in claim 12, further comprising

a ground-layer film provided in between said water-repelling film and said clearance-defining surface of one of said first and second components on which said water-repelling film layer is provided.

14. (Original) The fishing reel set forth in claim 12, wherein said water-repelling film layer is a thin metallic film impregnated with a fluorinated resin.

15. (Currently Amended) A spinning reel comprising:
a handle;
a reel unit to which said handle is rotatably fitted, said reel unit having a spool shaft;
a rotor rotatable about said spool shaft in cooperation with rotation of said handle;
a spool disposed adjacent said rotor to wind fish line guided by said rotor, said spool being axially movable along said spool shaft; and
a water-sealing structure defined between said rotor and said spool shaft, including
a first component attached to said rotor,

a second component attached to said spool shaft and arranged adjacent to said first component such that a micro clearance is defined between opposing surfaces of said first and second components, said first component being rotatable relative to said second component via a bearing that has an inner race and an outer race and is disposed adjoining at least one of said first and second components in a direction of said spool shaft, said micro clearance being smaller than a gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing; and

sealing means for preventing water from invading the gap between said inner and outer races of said bearing solely by water repellency of ~~having said micro clearance~~ and a water-repelling film layer provided on at least said opposing surface of said first component, said sealing means having said micro clearance ~~and such that invasion of water into said micro clearance and said bearing is prevented solely due to water repellency of~~ said water-repelling film layer

16. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel set forth in claim 15, wherein said bearing has an inner race and an outer race, said outer race being attached to said rotor, said inner race being attached to said spool shaft, said first component has a pressing member that is adjoiningly attached to said outer race of said bearing, and said second component is an outer peripheral surface of said spool shaft.

17. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel set forth in claim 15, wherein: ~~said bearing has an inner race and an outer race, said outer race being attached to said rotor, said inner race being attached to said spool shaft,~~ said first component has a pressing member that is adjoiningly attached to said outer race of said bearing, and said second component has a cylindrical member that is fitted to said spool shaft.

18. (Currently Amended) The spinning reel set forth in claim 15, wherein ~~said bearing has an inner race and an outer race, said outer race being attached to said rotor, said inner race being attached to said spool shaft,~~

said first component has a plate-shaped member that is attached to said outer race of said bearing, and

said second component has a pressing member that is adjoiningly attached to said inner race of said bearing.

19. (Original) The spinning reel set forth in claim 15, wherein said water-repelling film layer is provided on both of said opposing surfaces of said first and said second components.

20. (Original) The spinning reel set forth in claim 17, wherein said cylindrical member has a projecting portion, which has a lip portion that tapers out.

21. (Previously Presented) The spinning reel comprising:
a handle;
a reel unit to which said handle is rotatably fitted, said reel unit having a spool shaft;
a rotor rotatable about said spool shaft in cooperation with rotation of said handle;
a spool disposed adjacent said rotor to wind fish line guided by said rotor, said spool being axially movable along said spool shaft; and
a water-sealing structure defined between said rotor and said spool shaft, including
a first component attached to said rotor,
a second component attached to said spool shaft and arranged adjacent to said first component such that a clearance is defined between opposing surfaces of said first and second components, said first component being rotatable relative to said second component,
a water-repelling film layer provided on at least one of said opposing surfaces of said first and said second components, and
a bearing having an inner race and an outer race, said outer race being attached to said rotor, said inner race being attached to said spool shaft,
said first component having a pressing member that is attached to said outer race of said bearing, and
said second component having a cylindrical member that is fitted to said spool shaft,

Appl. No. 10/080,412
Amendment dated June 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004

said cylindrical member having a plurality of projecting portions.